

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on April 2, 2004. Claims 1-13 and 17-19 are allowed. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended. Claims 14-16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 21 has been newly added and adds no new subject matter.

In the Office Action, the disclosure is objected to because of informalities. The informalities have been amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Patent Office, and Applicants respectfully submit such objection has been overcome.

In the Office Action, Claim 19 is objected to because of informalities. Claim 19 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis as recommended by the Patent Office and to further clarify the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit such objection has been overcome.

In the Office Action, Claims 14-15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,525,052 to Czarnetzki et al. ("*Czarnetzki*"). In response, Applicants have canceled Claims 14-16 and have re-written Claim 16 in independent form in newly added Claim 21 as recommended by the Patent Office. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit Claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

In addition, Claim 20 has been amended to include a cutter assembly for cutting extrudate. The cutter assembly includes a positioning member for positioning the cutter assembly close to an extrudate outlet. The cutter assembly also includes a housing and a die plate including a fluid inlet passage for receiving fluid for delivery to the cutter assembly and a fluid outlet passage for receiving fluid from the cutter assembly for discharge from the die plate. The cutter assembly further includes a fluid-driven motor and a cutting blade that can be caused to rotate into a path of movement of extrudate emerging from the extrudate outlet so as to sever it. A mounting member is included for mounting the blade to the housing. As admitted by the Patent Office at page 3 of the Office Action, *Czarnetzki* at least fails to disclose a die plate including a fluid inlet passage for receiving fluid for delivery to the cutter assembly and a fluid outlet passage for receiving fluid from the cutter assembly for discharge from the die plate. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified patent application is now in a condition for allowance and earnestly solicits reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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